Recovery of dues from Government Agencies by AAI

2485. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Central Government Organisations Agencies have to pay outstanding amount to Airports Authority of India; if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in payment; and

(b) since when the amount is outstanding and what steps the AAI has taken in the last six months to recover its amount from such agencies and the details of loss it suffered due to non-recovery of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As on 31.10.98, an amount of Rs. 236.52 crores was estimated as dues to Airports Authority of India from Air India, Indian Airlines, Pawan Hans Helicopters, Allaince Air and Vayudoot. The amounts shown outstanding have been disputed by the concerned organisations.

(b) The main components of outstanding dues is in respect of revision of licence fee for leasing of land, airport space and X-ray machine charges for past periods. Follow up action has been initiated by the Airports Authority with the various organisations. Intervention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation has also been sought to resolve the issues by mediation for disputed amounts.

Augmentation of Capacity of International Airports

2486. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the report published in "Times of India" dated 27th November, 1998 in its 'Business Page' 'State Governments lobby for international dream airports';

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether any steps are also being taken by Government to augment the existing capacity and quality of service in the existing international airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Policy on Airport Infrastructure has identified Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Guwahati airports for upgradation to international standards. A Task Force has been set up by the Govenrment under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to look into this aspect.

(c) and (d) The requirement of additional facilities at International airports are reviewed periodically and expansion and upgradation works undertaken accordingly to meet the demand of growing traffic. Saturation of facilities at international airports at Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram is therefore not expected in the near future. However, at Mumbai airport, even after the expected commissioning of Terminal II-C in August, 1999, airport faciliteis are likely to get saturated due to land/space constraints. Hence, the Government has consituted a Committee to examine the feasibility of setting up a second airport at Mumbai. The reprot of this Committee is awaited.

Airports Authority of India has chalked out a plan of Rs. 1522.52 crores during IXth Plan period (1997-2002) to augment the existing capacity and qualifty of service in the existing international airports. The details are at Annexure. *[See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 64]*